

# The Herald-Palladium

ONLINE



28 F

[more...](#)
[Click here for 5-day forecast](#)

St. Joseph-Benton Harbor, Michigan

The Newspaper for Southwest Michigan

Sunday, January 11, 2004

▶ <a href="#">Home Page</a>	<b><a href="#">Requirements for adoption</a></b>
▶ <a href="#">Local News</a>	There is a process families must follow to become adoptive parents through the Michigan Family Independence Agency.
▶ <a href="#">Sports</a>	
▶ <a href="#">Features</a>	"I look for an appropriate family or do home studies of the family," said Tamela Phillips, adoption worker for Cass County. "My job is to assist the family in the process of adoption, including home studies."
▶ <a href="#">Obituaries</a>	FIA lists the following specific eligibility requirements for people who are interested in adopting children.
▶ <a href="#">Business</a>	
▶ <a href="#">Editorial</a>	u Applicants are required to complete an application.
▶ <a href="#">About Us</a>	u Applicants must be adults.
▶ <a href="#">Classifieds</a>	u Both single and married persons may apply. If applicants are married, both of them must apply.
▶ <a href="#">Place an Ad</a>	
▶ <a href="#">Archives</a>	u A medical history and a recent physical examination are required.
▶ <a href="#">Subscribe</a>	u Applicants are required to participate in a family assessment. The assessment will include personal contact with each member of the family and must include a home visit.
▶ <a href="#">Health News</a>	
▶ <a href="#">World News</a>	Factors considered in the family assessment, according to the FIA, are:
▶ <a href="#">Stocks</a>	u Reason or motivation for adoption.
▶ <a href="#">Amusement</a>	u Family history, including emotional stability and compatibility of adopting parents.
▶ <a href="#">Town Hall</a>	u Strengths, weaknesses and health of family members.
	u Parenting ability, including methods of child discipline.
	u Education and employment history, including current financial status.
	u Adjustment and special needs of own children.
	u History or incidents involving domestic violence, substance abuse, or child abuse or neglect involving any family member.
	u The family's attitude toward accepting an adoptive child, including the family's plan to discuss adoption with the child.
	u The family's capacity, and disposition to give an adopted child love, affection and guidance, and to create an atmosphere that fosters the religion, racial identity and culture of the child.
	u Record of any criminal conviction other than minor traffic violations.
	u Three references by non-relatives.
	u Characteristics of the children preferred by the family and the agency's recommendation as to the age, sex and characteristics, including special needs, of children best served by the family.
	For more information on adoptions through the Family Independence Agency, log onto <a href="http://www.michigan.gov">www.michigan.gov</a> or call your local FIA.
	-- Dana Harris

Copyright © 2004 The Herald-Palladium